(b) Total cost of the project is Rs. 242.55 crs. Amount spent upto 31-3-95 is expected to be Rs. 31.13 crs. Rs. 30 crs. has been provided in 95-96 Budget for this work. It is planned to complete this work in about 4 years, subject to availability of resources in the coming years.

Progress in the gas pipeline from an Arab country

*127. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the position of gas pipeline to be laid under sea connecting India and an Arab country.

(b) what is the estimated final cost of gas pipeline project; and

(c) what would be the cost per 1000 cubic meter of gas that would be supplied by the said gas pipeline?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) The Feasibility study for the Oman India Gas Pipeline Project is in progress.

(b) The Oman Oil Company has indicated an investment of USD 5 billion for the Project.

(c) The price of gas will be linked to basket of alternative fuels and will have a floor and a ceiling. The price variation formula will be mutually agreed after negotiation.

दक्षेस के सदस्य देशों द्वारा दक्षेस को निष्क्रिय बनाया जाना

128. **श्री गोविन्दराव आदिक :** क्या विदेश मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि दक्षिण शियाई क्षेत्रीय सहयोग संघ सम्मेलन के छ सदस्य देश संगठन को निष्क्रिय बनाने ो भूमिका अदा कर रहे हैं;

(ख) क्या यह भी सच है कि दक्षेस की स्थापना के उद्देश्य पूरे नहीं हो रहे हैं ; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो भारत ऐसे वातावरण में दक्षेस के संबंध में क्या रवैया अपनाना चाहता है ?

विदेश मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री आर०एल० भाटिया) : (क) जी नहीं ।

(ख) जी नहीं । "सार्क" की स्थापना के पीछे जो उद्देश्य थे उन्हें विभिन्न क्षेत्रों में ठोस आधार दिया जा रहा है ।

(ग) प्रश्न नहीं उठता ।

Progress of South India Gas Grid

*129. SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present status of the proposal for South India Gas Grid;

(b) whether any memorandum of understanding or any agreement has been signed with any of the neighbouring countries; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) Government have approved in principle the concept of Southern Gas Grid. The Southern States have been requested to firm up the location and requirement of gas based projects in South India. The Kerala State Industrial Development Corporation has commissioned a pre-feasibility study for the Southern Gas Grid project.

(b) and (c) In respect of the import of natural gas from Oman and Iran, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed with Oman in March, 1993 and an Agreement on Principal Terms was signed in September, 1994. A Memoran-

dum of Understanding was signed with Iran in July, 1993 followed by Another MOU signed in November, 1993.

Indians in Pakistani Jails

*130. SHRI JOYANTA ROY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any report on Indian military officers and civilians in Pakistani Jails, as on date; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) and (b) According to avilable information, 54 missing Indian defence personnel are believed to be in custody in Pakistan and 1067 Indian civilian prisoners are under detention in Pakistani jails.

Indo-Malaysian Cultural Agreement

*131. SHRI P. UPENDRA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any cultural agreement between India and Malaysia;

(b) whether Malaysia has been refusing to give clearance to cultural delegations from India, despite the agreement; and

(c) what action is being taken by Government to enforce the terms of the cultural agreement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) Yes, Sir. There is a cultural agreement between India and Malaysia which was signed in March 1978.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) In accordance with the terms of the agreement, individuals|groups have been going to Malaysia for cultural activities, Malaysian student have also been granted admission i educational intsitutions in India.

बिहार और उत्तर प्रदेश में प्रधान डाकघरों में पार्सलों की चोरी

*132. **चौधरी हरमोहन सिंह**
श्री आस मोहम्मद :

क्या **संचार** मंत्री यह बताने की कृप करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या गत तीन वर्षों के दौरान बिहार और उत्तर प्रदेश के प्रधान डाकघरों से कई पार्सल चोरी हुए हैं ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है ;

(ग) उन पार्सलों में से विदेशी पार्सल कितने थे ;

(घ) क्या सरकार द्वारा इन घटनाओं की कोई जांच कराई गई है ;

(ङ) यदि हां, तो इसके क्या परिणाम निकले है ; और

(च) दोषी पाये गये व्यक्तियों के विरुद्ध सरकार ने क्या कार्रवाई की अथवा करने का विचार रखती है ?

संचार मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री सुखराम) : (क) से (च) जी नहीं । वर्ष 1991-92, 1992-93 और 1993-94 के दौरान बिहार तथा उत्तर प्रदेश के प्रधान डाकघरों से अंतर्देशीय या विदेशी पार्सल चोरी होने के किसी मामले की रिपोर्ट प्राप्त नहीं हुई । बिहार में 1992-93 के दौरान एक डाकिये के पास से, जब वह गश्त पर था, एक पार्सल खोने का एक मात्र मामला ध्यान में आया। इस मामले की जांच की गई थी और लापरवाही बरतने के लिए दोषी कर्मचारी के खिलाफ उपयुक्त कार्रवाई की गई थी